

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A chewing gum-containing tablet comprising a compressed mixture of gum base and a tablet base in particulate form, the average particle size of the gum base and the tablet base is from 20 μm to 160 μm , such that, when masticated, the tablet initially exhibits a first crumbly stage in which the tablet breaks into particles, followed by a second chewing gum stage in which the particles form a wad of chewing gum.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (original): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 prepared by compressing a mixture of a gum base and a tablet base material in powder form.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the gum base is a plasticized rubber or polymer which optionally includes texturizers, anti-tacking agents or antioxidants.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the tablet base material is a sugar or polyol.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the tablet base material is sucrose, fructose, lactose, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, isomalt, glucose syrup, maltitol syrup or erithrithol.

Claim 7 (original): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 which further comprises one or more of a binder, a lubricant, a flavor or a color.

Claim 8 (original): The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 which further comprises a pharmaceutical, medicated, nutritive or functional ingredient, a dental vehicle or a breath freshener.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a chewing gum-containing tablet which comprises mixing a particulated gum base with a particulated tablet base material, wherein the average particle size of the gum base and the tablet base is from 20 μ m to 160 μ m, and compressing the mixture in a tablet press to enable it to bind together and form a firm compact tablet such that, when masticated, the tablet initially exhibits a first crumbly stage in which the tablet breaks into particles, followed by a second chewing gum stage in which the particles form a wad of chewing gum.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 9 wherein the gum base is a plasticized rubber or polymer which optionally includes texturizers, anti-tacking agents or antioxidants.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 9 wherein the tablet base material is a sugar or a polyol.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 9 wherein the tablet base material is sucrose, fructose, lactose, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, isomalt, glucose syrup, maltitol syrup or erithrithol.

Claim 13 (original): The process of claim 9 which further comprises adding one or more of a binder, a lubricant, a flavor or a color to the mixture prior to compressing.

Claim 14 (original): The process of claim 9 which further comprises adding one or more of a pharmaceutical, medicated, nutritive or functional agent, a dental vehicle or a breath freshener to the mixture prior to compressing.